

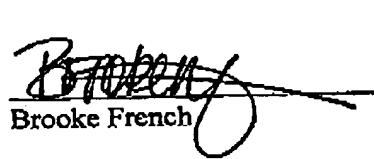
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Date:

September 20, 2005
Brooke French

In re application of: Walls, et al

Confirmation No.: 7156

U.S. Serial Number: 09/974,555

Art Unit: 2151

Filing Date: October 9, 2001

Examiner: Madamba, Glenford

Our Reference Number: 10008320-1

Title: System and Method for Configuring a Plurality of Computers that
Collectively Render a DisplayAppeal Brief
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PATENT APPLICATION

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10008320-1

IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Walls, et al

Confirmation No.: 7158

Application No.: 09/974,555

Examiner: Madamba, Glenford

Filing Date: 10/09/01

Group Art Unit: 2151

Title: System and Method for Configuring a Plurality of Computers that Collectively Render a Display

Mail Stop Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner For Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is the Appeal Brief in this application with respect to the Notice of Appeal filed on 7/22/05.

The fee for filing this Appeal Brief is (37 CFR 1.17(c)) \$500.00.

(complete (a) or (b) as applicable)

The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) apply.

() (a) Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 (fees: 37 CFR 1.17(a)-(d) for the total number of months checked below:

() one month	\$120.00
() two months	\$450.00
() three months	\$1020.00
() four months	\$1590.00

() The extension fee has already been filled in this application.

(X) (b) Applicant believes that no extension of time is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

Please charge to Deposit Account 08-2025 the sum of \$500.00. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. Additionally please charge any fees to Deposit Account 08-2025 under 37 CFR 1.16 through 1.21 inclusive, and any other sections in Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations that may regulate fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

() I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. Date of Deposit: _____

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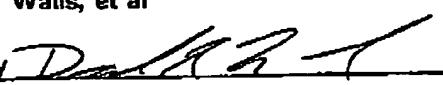
Typed Name: Brooke French

Signature: 

Respectfully submitted,

Walls, et al

By


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SEP 20 2005

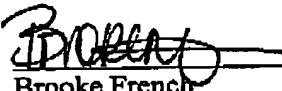
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In Re Application of:) Group Art Unit: 2151
 Walls, et al.) Examiner: Madamba, Glenford J.
 Serial No.: 09/974,555) Confirmation No. 7156
 Filed: October 9, 2001) HP Docket No.: 10008320-1
 For: System and Method for Configuring) TKHR Docket: 50819-1370
 A Plurality of Computers That Collectively
 Render a Display)

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Brooke French

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.192

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This is an appeal from the decision of Examiner Madamba, Glenford J., Group Art Unit 2151, mailed June 14, 2005, rejecting claims 1-19 in the present application and making the rejection FINAL.

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I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest of the instant application is Hewlett-Packard Development Company, a Texas Limited Liability Partnership having its principal place of business in Houston, Texas.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals or interferences.

III. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1-19 are pending in this application, and all claims were rejected by the FINAL Office Action and are the subject of this appeal. The Office Action rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,501,441 (to *Ludike*).

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

All amendments submitted before the mailing date of the FINAL Office Action have been entered, and no amendments have been submitted subsequent to the mailing of the FINAL Office Action. A copy of the current claims is attached hereto as Appendix A.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Embodiments of the claimed subject matter are illustrated in FIGs.3 through 28 and are discussed in the specification at least at pages 5-59.

Embodiments of the invention define methods for configuring a plurality of networked slave computers (see e.g., FIG. 16, reference numbers 304, 306, 308, 310 and related discussion) to cooperate to collectively render a display comprising: specifying, at a

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master computer (see e.g., FIG. 16, reference number 302 and related discussion), compatible operating configuration (see e.g., FIG. 16, reference number 320 and related discussion) for each of the plurality of slave computers; and communicating, across the network, the specified configuration (see e.g., FIG. 16, reference numbers 324, 326 and related discussion) to each of the plurality of slave computers.

Embodiments of the invention further comprise translating (see e.g., FIG. 16, reference numbers 322 and related discussion) information from the master configuration file (see e.g., FIG. 16, reference number 320 and related discussion) and saving the translated information into a plurality of slave configuration files (see e.g., FIG. 16, reference numbers 324, 326 and related discussion).

Embodiments of the invention define methods for configuring a plurality of networked computer clusters (see e.g., FIG. 17 and related discussion) to cooperate to collectively render a plurality of displays comprising: specifying, at a head computer (see e.g., FIG. 17, reference number 402 and related discussion), configuration information (see e.g., FIG. 17, reference number 420 and related discussion) for each of a plurality of master computers (see e.g., FIG. 17, reference numbers 404, 406, 408, 410 and related discussion); communicating, across the network, the specified configurations to each of the plurality of master computers; specifying, at each master computer, compatible operating configuration (see e.g., FIG. 17, reference number 424 and related discussion) for each of a plurality of slave computers; and communicating, across the network, the configuration by each master computer to each of the plurality of slave computers of a computer cluster associated with a given master computer.

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VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The Office Action rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by *Ludtke*.

VII. ARGUMENT

Discussion of Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,501,441 (to *Ludtke*). For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants disagree and respectfully request that the rejections be overturned.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, and 17-19

Independent claim 1 recites:

1. A method for configuring a plurality of networked slave computers to cooperate to collectively render a display comprising:
specifying, at a master computer, compatible operating configuration for each of the plurality of slave computers; and
communicating, across the network, the specified configuration to each of the plurality of slave computers.

(*Emphasis added.*) Claim 1 patently defines over *Ludtke* for at least the reason that *Ludtke* fails to disclose the features emphasized above.

As clearly described in the specification of the present application, an objective of the present invention is to configure, from a single source, a plurality of computers to operate in "compatible" modes or states. In the specification, an example of "stereo" mode (see bottom of page 7) was presented. The specification further described how the configuration operation pertained to certain settings on the graphics cards of the various display computers.

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The application of *Ludtke*, as teaching this feature, is misplaced. In this regard, *Ludtke* states that the "master device 22 has the responsibilities of determining how the video stream is partitioned among the display devices 24-40 within the multiple display configuration and facilitating the partitioning of the video stream within the display devices 24-40." Simply stated, the partitioning of a video stream is not the same as "specifying ... compatible operating configurations." As is clear from the description provided in the present application, the claimed "compatible operating configuration" refers to the configuration of the graphics hardware/software to enable the hardware/software to properly render graphics on a display. In one non-limiting embodiment described in the specification, this encompasses the configuration of the graphics cards of the display computers, so that the display computers operate in a compatible configuration. Again, the example presented at the bottom of page 7 explains how display computers could not operate compatibly if one were configured to display graphics in "stereo" mode and another in "mono" mode. The specification further notes (top of page 8) that it is not necessary that the display computers be configured to operate in "identical" states, but only "compatible" states; a distinction that will be appreciated by persons skilled.

Ludtke teaches no such corresponding or anticipatory teaching. The Office Action cited col. 19, lines 53-66 as allegedly teaching this claimed feature: it does not. This cited portion of *Ludtke* actually states:

Preferably, the management support and controls for the multiple display configuration are exposed to control devices on the IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network, allowing the control devices to issue commands to the master device concerning the configuration of the multiple display configuration. *These commands allow the control device and the user, through the control device, to specify controls such as which display devices are to be used within the multiple display configuration, the configuration and orientation of the image on the multiple display configuration and other appropriate characteristics. Within this preferred embodiment, a configue*

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command is utilized by a control device to initially set up a multiple display configuration and to change an existing multiple display configuration.

(Emphasis added.) Further, the text that immediately follows this quotation includes exemplary configuration commands. From these commands, it is clear the "configuration" in *Ludtke* refers to display resolution and video stream partitioning, as opposed to a compatible operating configuration (e.g., operating modes or states).

More specifically, the "configuration" referred to in this portion of *Ludtke* refers to the identification of which displays will cooperate to display an image (single logical screen) and the orientation of the image. Significantly, it does not disclose or suggest the configuration of each of the cooperating computers in a "compatible" configuration, as required by claim 1, to properly render graphics to a display (e.g., preamble of claim 1 calls for networked slave computers that "cooperate to collectively render a display"). In this regard, *Ludtke* discloses nothing more than that which Applicants characterized as known prior art (see background section of present application). Applicants' background section acknowledged single logical display systems, wherein a plurality of display computers were configured to cooperatively display a single display image. Implicit in such a system is a central mechanism for partitioning the video stream among the various display computers. However, as characterized in the present specification, the known systems required independent and individual configuration of the graphics cards of each of the cooperating display computers. *Ludtke* is silent on this aspect, and certainly fails to disclose a configuration, whereby a master computer specifies a compatible operating configuration for the plurality of computers, as claimed by claim 1.

Further to this point, claim 1 specifies "communicating ... the specified configuration to each of the plurality of slave computers." This ensures that all of the cooperating slave computers are compatibly configured.

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The Final Office Action responded to Applicants' previous comments with regard to claim 1 by repeatedly reciting *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181 (Fed. Cir. 1993), for the proposition that "limitations from the specification are not read into the claims." After citing *In re Van Geuns* multiple times, the Office Action then cited *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67 (CCPA 1976) to support the Examiner's refusal to consider limitations in the claim preamble. In short, the Final Office Action wholly failed to consider the claim as a whole, and rather dissected individual features and elements of the claims and independently refused to accord these elements their proper interpretation, in the context of the claim as a whole, in order to sustain the rejection. Applicants recognize that limitations of claim preambles are often not given patentable weight, and likewise limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. However, the Examiner is not free to ignore the clear teachings of the specification and features recited in the claim preamble, when doing so leads to a claim construction that is repugnant to the clear and proper scope of the invention, as construed in accordance with the specification. *DuPont v. Phillips*, 849 F.2d 1430, 1433 (Fed. Cir. 1988); see, also, *ZMI v. Cardiac Resuscitator*, 844 F.2d 1576 (Fed. Cir. 1988). That is precisely what the Examiner has done in this instance.

Broadly, *Ludtke* is directed to the partitioning, scaling, and displaying of video or other graphics from a single video source across multiple video displays. This objective of *Ludtke* is vividly displayed in Figure 2 of that reference. In contrast, the embodiments of claim 1 is directed to a method for configuring a plurality of networked, slave computers to collectively render a display. First and foremost, it should be understood that the rendering of a graphics display does not necessarily equate to the displaying of the rendered graphics information. Indeed, the rendering of a graphics image is a computational extensive process, particularly when rendering complex, three-dimensional images. In many high-end computer

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systems, a plurality of slave computers cooperate to render a graphics image, and the rendered graphics image may ultimately be displayed on a single display. The teaching of *Ludtke*, however, is not directed to rendering of a graphics image, but merely to the partitioning and display (across multiple displays) a video or graphics image. For this reason alone, the rejection made by the Examiner is fundamentally misplaced.

More significantly, however, claim 1 specifies actions of "specifying, at a master computer, compatible operating configurations for each of the plurality of slave computers; and communicating, across the network, the specified configuration to each of the plurality of slave computers." This feature is not disclosed in *Ludtke*.

In an effort to assist the Examiner in obtaining a proper understanding of the meaning of the claimed phrase "specifying...compatible operating configurations..." the Applicants pointed to the relevant description in the specification, which illustrated this aspect in the context of a "stereo" versus "mono" operating configuration. In applying *Ludtke* as allegedly disclosing this feature, the Examiner has effectively ignored this claim language, or treated this language as having no particular meaning at all. Applicants have described that, in accordance with the specification (e.g., bottom of page 7), that the phrase "operating configuration" should be properly construed in the context of certain settings on a computer's graphics card, which are conventionally set for a variety of graphics modes of operation (e.g., stereo mode). Therefore, the claim feature of "compatible operating configuration" should properly be construed to mean an operating configuration conventionally controlled by settings of graphics cards, such that graphics computations (e.g., computations for rendering) may be computed across the plurality of slave computers in a consistent manner. Such modes and compatible configurations will be understood by persons skilled in the art and need not be

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explicitly recited in the claims to arrive at a proper claim interpretation, in view of the specification.

However, rather than to accept this well-established legal principle of claim interpretation, the Examiner has instead ignored these remarks and relied exclusively on the alleged legal premise that "limitations from the specification are not read into the claims." The Examiner's citation and exclusive reliance on this case law is misplaced, as it is well-settled law that applicants may be their own lexicographer, using the specification to define terms or phrases. Moreover, rather than offer an alternative interpretation of Applicants' claim element, the Examiner has simply refused to accept Applicants' interpretation, stating simply that "the claim and its limitations, as written, and broadly interpreted by the Examiner, are met by the disclosures of the *Ludtke* reference." (Office Action, pp. 2-3).

For at least the foregoing reasons, the rejection of claim 1 is misplaced and should be overturned. Claims 2-3, 5, and 7 each depends from claim 1 and the rejections of these claims should be overturned for at least the same reasons. Likewise, independent claim 17 was rejected on the same basis as claim 1, and therefore the rejection of claim 17 (and dependent claims 18-19) should be overturned for at least the same reasons.

Claim 4

The Office Action rejected claim 4 as allegedly anticipated by *Ludtke*. Applicants respectfully disagree and submit that this rejection should be overturned. Claim 4 depends from claim 3, and collectively these claims recite:

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of communicating the specified configuration comprises saving at least one slave configuration file in a predetermined location on each of the plurality of slave computers.

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4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of saving at least one configuration file comprises saving the at least one slave configuration file using a predetermined filename.

In rejecting claim 3, the Office Action has relied on the teachings at column 25, lines 40-46 of *Ludtke* (Office Action page 10, line 6), and in rejecting claim 4, the Office Action merely alleged that "it is inherent from the teaching of *Ludtke* that the transmittal of encoded data packets to an address corresponding to a memory location within each of the display devices in a multiple display configuration would be contained in some standard file format (i.e., MPEG or DV with a predetermined file name as its identifier [call 25, line 61-61]" (Office Action page 11, lines 4-9)). Applicants respectfully disagree.

First, as noted above, claim 3 specifies that the step of communicating the specified configuration comprises saving at least one slave configuration file in a predetermined location on each of the plurality of slave computers." In contrast, the teaching relied upon by the Office Action states: "transmitting each scaled image section to each appropriate display device, wherein the step of transmitting each scaled image section includes combining data representing the scaled image section for an appropriate display device in a stream of data packets, each including an address value corresponding to a memory location within the appropriate device..." Simply stated, the Office Action construes the teaching of a stream of data packets, each having an address corresponding to a memory location within an appropriate display device, as disclosing the claimed feature of saving a file in a specified location. Applicants note, firstly, that a file is different than a data packet, and the teaching of *Ludtke* in this regard clearly does not anticipate the invention of claim 3. More significantly, claim 4 further defines claim 3 by stating that at least one configuration file is saved using a predetermined filename. The data packet of *Ludtke*, which was cited by the Examiner in rejecting claim 3 is not identified, in any way, by a filename.

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In addition, the Examiner states that the transmittal of encoded data packets to an address would be contained in some standard file (such as MPEG) with a predetermined file name as its identifier. Applicants respectfully disagree.

With regard to the Examiner's allegation that "it is inherent ... that the transmittal of encoded data packets to an address corresponding to a memory location within each of the display devices in a multiple display configuration would be contained in some standard file format..." Applicants note that the Federal Circuit has clearly-established precedence to the legal doctrine of inherency. To this end, the undersigned respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the decision of *Elan Pharm. v. Mayo Found. for Med. Educ. & Research*, 304 F.3d 1221 (Fed. Cir. 2002), in which the Federal Circuit reversed a finding of inherency by a district court. In this opinion, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit emphasized:

An anticipating reference "must disclose every element of the challenged claim and enable one skilled in the art to make the anticipating subject matter." *PPG Industries, Inc. v. Guardian Industries Corp.*, 75 F.3d 1558, 1566, 37 USPQ2d 1618, 1624 (Fed. Cir. 1996). When [a rejection] is based on inherency of limitations not expressly disclosed in the assertedly anticipating reference, it must be shown that the undisclosed information was known to be present in the subject matter of the reference. *Continental Can Co. USA, Inc. v. Monsanto Co.*, 948 F.2d 1264, 1269, 20 USPQ2d 1746, 1749-50 (Fed. Cir. 1991). *An inherent limitation is one that is necessarily present; invalidation based on inherency is not established by "probabilities or possibilities."* *Scaltech, Inc. v. Retec/Tetra, LLC.*, 178 F.3d 1378, 1384, 51 USPQ2d 1055, 1059 (Fed. Cir. 1999).

(Emphasis added.)

This discussion by the Federal Circuit is certainly nothing new. The law surrounding the doctrine of inherency has not changed for over 60 years. In fact, the Federal Circuit has repeatedly quoted the language from the 1939 decision *Hansgirg v. Kemmer*, 26 C.C.P.A. 937, 102 F.2d 212, 214, 40 U.S.P.Q. (BNA) 665, 667 (CCPA 1939)), which stated "Inherency, however, may not be established by probabilities or possibilities. The mere fact that a certain thing *may* result from a given set of circumstances is not sufficient."

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The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (M.P.E.P.) also embodies these requirements. Specifically, MPEP 2112, in part, states:

The fact that a certain result or characteristic may occur or be present in the prior art is not sufficient to establish the inherency of that result or characteristic.... To establish inherency, the extrinsic evidence must make clear that the missing descriptive matter is necessarily present in the thing described in that reference, and that it would be so recognized by persons of ordinary skill.

(Emphasis in original).

In contrast to these legal and procedural requirements, the Examiner has, unfortunately, substituted his own subjective judgment in place of the actual teachings of the *Ludtke*, in a manner that embodies clear (and improper) hindsight. In this regard, the Office Action has stated only that "it is inherent from the teaching of *Ludtke* that the transmittal of encoded data packets to an address corresponding to a memory location within each of the display devices in a multiple display configuration would be contained in some standard file format..." are inherent in the teachings of *Ludtke*. Applicants disagree. Quite simply, data packets that are communicated from one computer to another do not necessarily have any associated filename. In fact, in the system of *Ludtke*, graphics from one computer is communicated for display on a plurality of displays. Not only does this graphics data not need to be stored in a file, it is quite likely that the graphics data is generated in memory, and communicated to the plurality of displays on the fly (such that a filename is never generated).

Simply stated, *Ludtke* is silent on this point. With respect to the "inherency" rejection, the fact that such an on-the-fly generation/communication of data could be implemented is sufficient to negate the inherency rejection. For this reason alone, the rejection should be overturned.

In addition, the Examiner further took the position that the graphics information would necessarily be stored in some standard file (such as MPEG) with a predetermined file

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name as its identifier. However, "MPEG," as the Examiner cites, is a file extension, and not a file name. Further, as Applicant noted, the graphics information of *Ludtke* may be generated on the fly, and never saved in a file (and thus no filename may ever be generated at all). With regard to claim 4, the Office Action has failed to cite any relevant teaching of the *Ludtke* reference for the claimed subject matter, and has instead relied on the Doctrine of Inherency in supporting this otherwise unsupported rejection. As noted above, with respect to the legal requisites regarding the Doctrine of Inherency, the rejection is clearly misplaced and should be overturned.

Claim 6

The Office Action rejected claim 6 as allegedly anticipated by *Ludtke*. Claim 6 depends from claim 5, and these claims recite:

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of specifying, at a master computer, operating configurations further comprises the step of reading, by the master computer, a master configuration file that is stored in a predetermined location.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of specifying, at a master computer, operating configurations further comprises the step of *translating information from the master configuration file and saving the translated information into a plurality of slave configuration files*.

(Emphasis added.)

Collectively, these claims further specify that the operating configurations are specified by reading a master configuration file that is stored on a predetermined location, and translating information from the master configuration file and saving the translated information into a plurality of slave configuration files. The rejections of these claims are set forth on page 12 of the Office Action. Rather than repeat the rejection of the Office Action, the undersigned simple disagrees with the analysis of the rejection. Candidly, the

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undersigned fails to even understand the relevance of the cited portions of the *Ludtke* patent. Significantly, the undersigned notes that there is not even an allegation in the rejection set forth in the Office Action of the translation of a master configuration file into a plurality of slave configuration files. Consequently, the rejection is misplaced and should be overturned.

Claims 8-16

The Office Action rejected claim 8 as allegedly anticipated by *Ludtke*. Independent claim 8 recites:

8. A method for configuring a plurality of networked computer clusters to cooperate to collectively render a plurality of displays comprising:
specifying, at a head computer, configuration information for each of a plurality of master computers;
communicating, across the network, the specified configurations to each of the plurality of master computers;
specifying, at each master computer, compatible operating configuration for each of a plurality of slave computers; and
communicating, across the network, the configuration by each master computer to each of the plurality of slave computers of a computer cluster associated with a given master computer.

(Emphasis added.)

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 8 defines over *Ludtke* for at least the same reasons set forth above in connection with claim 1. In this regard, the last two elements of claim 8 loosely correspond to the elements of claim 1, and for at least this reason, claim 8 defines over *Ludtke*. In addition, the first two elements of claim 8 define an expanded system having a plurality of master computers, and a head computer over each of all of the master computers. No such teaching is found or even remotely suggested in *Ludtke*. The Office Action, however, takes the position that such a teaching is "inherent" in *Ludtke*. Such a rejection embodies a fundamentally misplaced understanding and application of the doctrine

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of inherency. As noted above, the Federal Circuit has clearly established precedence to the law of inherency.

In contrast to the established legal precedence, the Office Action has, unfortunately, substituted its own subjective judgment in place of the actual teachings of the *Ludtke*, in a manner that embodies clear (and improper) hindsight. In this regard, the Office Action has stated only that the claimed features embodying the "specifying, at a head computer, configuration information for each of a plurality of master computers" and "communicating ... the specified configurations to each of the plurality of master computers," are inherent in the teachings of *Ludtke*. This is clearly a situation where, at best, such a teaching that may be consistent with the other teachings of *Ludtke*, but is certainly not necessarily present. Such situations are specifically addressed in the M.P.E.P. and Federal Circuit precedent, and do not constitute proper teachings for supporting a rejection of the claimed subject matter, under the doctrine of inherency. As one (of a number) simple example, each of the master computers could be separately (manually) configured (rather than being configured from a head computer). This simple example of an alternative is sufficient to negate the application of the doctrine of inherency. For at least this additional reason, the rejection of claim 8 is misplaced and should be overturned.

In response to the previous remarks set forth by the Applicants, the Examiner admitted that *Ludtke* fails to make an "explicit reference to a plurality of master computers and a head computer over each of the master computers." (Office Action page 6, lines 12-13). The Office Action, instead, alleges that "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art..." (the FINAL Office Action states this, but still maintains the inherence rejection – *see* p 9, lines 4-6). Thus, on its face, the Office Action rejection is deficient, in that it is relying on an obviousness argument in support of an anticipation rejection under 35

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USC § 102(e). For this reason alone, the rejection should be overturned. However, to advance the prosecution of matter, the undersigned will respond to this obviousness rejection. In short, the undersigned respectfully traverses the allegation that such a modification would be obvious. The Examiner reasoned that the otherwise undisclosed feature would have been obvious from the teachings of *Ludtke* "since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art." (Office Action page 6, lines 16-18).

Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is both misplaced and improper. Apparently, the Examiner is alleging that the additional claimed feature of a head computer specifying configuration files for a plurality of master computers, which in turn specify configuration files for respective slave computers, is a merely a duplication of an essential working parts. This is incorrect. In fact, it is an entire additional layer of components. As an example of a duplication of essential working parts, such a rejection would have been appropriate had the Applicant claimed a second plurality of slave computers or, if the Applicant had claimed a plurality of three slave computers and the further claimed a plurality of six slave computers. In such an example as that, the additional slave computers claimed would merely add on duplication of subject matter already claimed. However, the added subject matter of claim 8 (i.e., the head computer specifying configuration information for each of a plurality of master computers) is an additional layer of technology and complexity, and the rejection set forth by the Examiner is simply misplaced and should be overturned.

Claim 9-16 depend from claim 8 and therefore patently define over *Ludtke* for at least the same reasons.

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CONCLUSION

Based upon the foregoing discussion, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's final rejection of claims 1-19 be overturned by the Board, and that the application be allowed to issue as a patent with all pending claims 1-19.

In addition to the claims of Appendix A, Appendix B attached hereto indicates that there is no evidence being submitted in connection with this Appeal Brief, and Appendix C attached hereto indicates that there are no related proceedings.

Please charge Hewlett-Packard Company's deposit account 08-2025 in the amount of \$500 for the filing of this Appeal Brief. No additional fees are believed to be due in connection with this Appeal Brief. If, however, any additional fees are deemed to be payable, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fees to deposit account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,



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VIII. CLAIMS - APPENDIX

1. A method for configuring a plurality of networked slave computers to cooperate to collectively render a display comprising:
 - specifying, at a master computer, compatible operating configuration for each of the plurality of slave computers; and
 - communicating, across the network, the specified configuration to each of the plurality of slave computers.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of communicating the specified configuration comprises communicating the specified configuration through a communication socket of each of the plurality of slave computers.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of communicating the specified configuration comprises saving at least one slave configuration file in a predetermined location on each of the plurality of slave computers.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of saving at least one configuration file comprises saving the at least one slave configuration file using a predetermined filename.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of specifying, at a master computer, operating configurations further comprises the step of reading, by the master computer, a master configuration file that is stored in a predetermined location.

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6. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of specifying, at a master computer, operating configurations further comprises the step of translating information from the master configuration file and saving the translated information into a plurality of slave configuration files.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of specifying, at a master computer, operating configurations further comprises the step of translating information from the master configuration file and communicating the translated information to the plurality of slave computers.

8. A method for configuring a plurality of networked computer clusters to cooperate to collectively render a plurality of displays comprising:

specifying, at a head computer, configuration information for each of a plurality of master computers;

communicating, across the network, the specified configurations to each of the plurality of master computers;

specifying, at each master computer, compatible operating configuration for each of a plurality of slave computers; and

communicating, across the network, the configuration by each master computer to each of the plurality of slave computers of a computer cluster associated with a given master computer.

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9. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of communicating the specified configuration comprises communicating the specified configuration through a communication socket of each of the plurality of slave computers.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of communicating the specified configuration comprises saving at least one configuration file in a predetermined location on each of the plurality of slave computers.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of saving at least one configuration file comprises saving the at least one configuration file using a predetermined filename.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein the step of specifying, at a head computer, operating configurations further comprises the step of reading, by the head computer, a head configuration file that is stored in a predetermined location.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of specifying, at the head computer, operating configurations further comprises the step of translating information from the head configuration file and saving the translated information into a plurality of master configuration files.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of specifying, at the head computer, operating configurations further comprises the step of translating information from the head

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configuration file and communicating the translated information to the plurality of master computers.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of specifying, at each master computer, operating configurations further comprises the step of translating information from each master configuration file and saving the translated information into a plurality of slave configuration files.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of specifying, at each master computer, operating configurations further comprises the step of further translating configuration information received at each master computer and communicating the further translated information to the plurality of slave.

17. A computer-readable medium comprising a computer program for configuring a plurality of networked computers to cooperate to collectively render a display comprising:
a code segment configured to control the reception, at a master computer, of specified configurations for each of a plurality of slave computers;
a code segment configured to control the specification, at the master computer, compatible operating configuration for each of the plurality of slave computers; and
a code segment configured to control the communication of the specified configurations to each of the plurality of slave computers.

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18. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the code segment configured to control the communication is configured to generate a slave configuration file containing configuration information.

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the code segment configured to control the communication is configured to communicate configuration information to each of the slave computers through a communication socket.

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IX. EVIDENCE - APPENDIX

None.

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IX. RELATED PROCEEDINGS- APPENDIX

None.

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